

pressing into the first layer of non-metallic material an object comprising a surface so as to change surface properties of the first layer of non-metallic material in order to replicate at least one surface relief, said at least one surface relief forming part of the surface of the object.

B/Contd  
37. A method according to claim 36, wherein the first layer of non-metallic material is selected from the group consisting of lacquers, polymers, printing inks or any combination thereof.

38. A method according to claim 36, wherein the metal substrate comprises a colour print layer, said colour print layer being positioned between the metal substrate and the first layer of a non-metallic material.

39. A method according to claim 36, further comprising the step of providing a second layer, said second layer being substantially transparent and covering at least part of the first layer of non-metallic material.

40. A method according to claim 39, wherein the second layer is selected from the group consisting of lacquers, polymers, laminated plastic, printing inks or any combination thereof.

41. A method according to claim 39, wherein the refractive index of the first layer of non-metallic material is different from the refractive index of the second layer.

42. A method according to claim 36, further comprising a step of providing a metal layer onto at least part of the at least one replicated surface relief, said metal layer being substantially conform with the at least one replicated surface relief.

43. A method according to claim 42, wherein the metal layer covering at least part of the at least one replicated surface relief comprises a highly refractive material, the highly refractive material being aluminum, silver, gold, titanium dioxide and zirconium dioxide or any combination thereof.

44. A method according to claim 42, further comprising the step of providing a third layer, said third layer being substantially transparent and covering at least part of the metal layer.

45. A method according to claim 44, wherein the third layer is selected from the group consisting of lacquers, polymers, laminated plastic, printing inks or any combination thereof.

46. A method according to claim 36, wherein the at least one surface relief replicated in the first layer of non-metallic material comprises a diffracting optical element.

47. A method according to claim 36, wherein the thickness of the first layer of non-metallic material is within the range 1-50  $\mu\text{m}$ .

48. A method according to claim 47, wherein the thickness of the first layer of non-metallic material is within the range 2-25  $\mu\text{m}$ .

49. A method according to claim 48, wherein the thickness of the first layer of non-metallic material is within the range 2-20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

50. A method according to claim 49, wherein the thickness of the first layer of non-metallic material is within the range 5-15  $\mu\text{m}$ .

51. A method according to claim 50, wherein the thickness of the first layer of non-metallic material is within the range 5-10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

52. A method according to claim 36, wherein replication of the at least one surface relief is performed as a part of a rolling process.

53. A method according to claim 36, wherein replication of the at least one surface relief is performed in a stamping process.

54. An article for holding a surface relief, said article comprising a bearing metal substrate, and a first layer of non-metallic material integrated with said metal substrate, said first layer of non-metallic material holding at least one surface relief.

55. An article according to claim 54, wherein the first layer of non-metallic material is selected from the group consisting of lacquers, polymers, printing inks or any combination thereof.

56. An article according to claim 54, further comprising a second layer, said second layer being substantially transparent and covering at least part of the first layer of non-metallic material.

57. An article according to claim 56, wherein the second layer is selected from the group consisting of lacquers, polymers, laminated plastic, printing inks or any combination thereof.

58. An article according to claim 56, wherein the refractive index of the first layer of non-metallic material is different from the refractive index of the second layer.

59. An article according to claim 54, wherein the metal substrate comprises a color print layer, said color print layer being positioned between the metal substrate and the first layer of a non-metallic material.

60. An article according to claim 54, further comprising a metal layer covering at least part of the first layer of non-metallic material and being substantially conform with the at least one replicated surface relief being held by the first layer of non-metallic material.

61. An article according to claims 60, wherein the metal layer covering at least part of the at least one replicated surface relief comprises a material selected from the group consisting of aluminum, silver, gold, titanium dioxide and zirconium dioxide or any combination thereof.

62. An article according to claim 60, further comprising a third layer, said third layer being substantially transparent and covering at least part of the metal layer.